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Message Text

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46
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12
NEA-10 CIEP-01 SP-02 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 OMB-01 /090 W
---------- 013763
R 061206Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8067

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 13595

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, NI
SUBJECT: ILO-NEXT INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

REF: STATE 289045

1; EMBASSY'S INITIAL REACTION IS THAT SELECTION OF NIGERIAN AS ILO GENERAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT NOT BE PARTICULARLY PROPITIOUS FOR U.S. OBJECTIVES THAT BODY. PRESENT FMG'S DOMESTIC POLICY IS TO "GUIDE" (AND CONTAIN) LABOR MOVEMENT IN CONSCIOUS ATTEMPT TO HARNESS IT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL INTER-NATIONAL POSTURE IS TO ASSERT ITSELF AS "PROGRESSIVE" AFRICAN LEADER AND TO TAKE POSITIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA PARTISAN TO NON-ALIGNED CAUSES. NIGERIANS ARE MOST VOCAL ON AFRICAN POLITICAL ISSUES (ESPECIALLY THOSE INVOLVING SOUTHERN AFRICA) AND THEY INREEAS-INGLY INVOLVED IN POLITICIZING NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC MATTERS.

2. LABOR COMMISSIONER ADEFOPE IS GOOD SOLDIER AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES COMPLETELY. ALTHOUGH PERMSEC KOKU APPEARS TO REMAIN SYMPATHETIC TO TRADITIONAL ILO PRINCIPLES, WESTERN CONCEPTS OF TRADE UNIONISM, AND U.S. GENERALLY, HE IS PRUDENT BUREAUCRAT AND IT DOUBTFUL HE WOULD BUCK APPROVED FMG LINE. IN SUM, WE WOULD NOT EXPECT EITHER OF THESE MOST LIKELY NIGERIAN CANDIDATES TO TAKE OVERT OR LEADING ROLE IN SUPPORT U.S. INITIATIVES OR POSITIONS WHEN THESE APPEAR TO BE AT ODDS WITH MAINSTREAM THIRD WGRLD CONSENSUS. NIGERIANS MIGHT GO ALONG WITH COMPROMISE IF THEY THOROUGHLY CONVINCED U.S. ABOUT TO PULL OUT OF ILO THREATENING THAT BODY'S FINANCIAL VIABILITY.
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3. IF NIGERIAN SHOULD EMERGE AS AFRICA REGIONAL CANDIDATE,
AND U.S. DECIDES BACK ANOTHER ASPIRANT, WE WOULD URGE UTMOST
DISCRETION IN OUR LOBBYING TACTICS. NIGERIANS QUITE SENSITIVE TO
OUTSIDE "INTERFERENCE" IN MATTERS THEY CONSIDER (RIGHTLY OR
WRONGLY) TO BE DECISIONS SOLELY FOR AFRICANS.
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